

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 AID-05 FRB-01 USIA-15

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 855

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UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0451

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAIR, ECON, NZ

SUBJ: AIR TRAVEL COSTS FOR NEW ZEALANDERS CONTINUE RAPID CLIMB

1. THOSE NEW ZEALANDERS PURCHASING AIR TICKETS FOR TRANS-TASMAN AND PACIFIC TRAVEL WILL FEEL ANOTHER JUMP IN THEIR EXPENDITURES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED FEB. 3 THAT NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA HAD APPROVED A REQUEST BY AIR NEW ZEALAND (ANZ) AND QANTAS FOR A 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN TRANS-TASMAN AIR FARES. THE REASON FOR THE INCREASE IS TO RECOVER HIGHER COSTS FOR FUEL, LABOR AND AIRPORT DUES.

2. THE TASMAN FARES ROSE IN APRIL 1975 BY 8 PER CENT, 4 PER CENT IN JULY AND 12 PER CENT IN AUGUST (AT THE TIME THE NZ DOLLAR WAS DEVALUED). THESE INCREASES IN AIR FARE PRICES FOR NEW ZEALANDERS TOTAL CLOSE TO 40 PER CENT IN ABOUT 10 MONTHS.

3. ANZ WILL ALSO INCREASE AIR FARES BETWEEN 4 AND 10 PER CENT FOR TRAVEL TO THE PACIFIC AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN AREAS. TRAVEL TO TAHITI, SINGAPORE, FIJI, SAMOA, RAROTONGA, HONG KONG AND TOKYO WILL BE AFFECTED.

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4. FARES TO THESE POINTS ROSE BY 8 PER CENT IN

APRIL, 10 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND 7 PER CENT IN JANUARY
1976.

5. REPORTEDLY, FURTHER PASSENGER FARE INCREASES
ARE LIKELY, INCLUDING ON SERVICE TO NORTH AMERICA.

6. THERE HAS BEEN A FALL OFF IN TASMAN AIR TRAVEL
DUE TO THE ECONOMIC RECESSION. THIS PLUS INCREASED
OPERATING COSTS ON ALL ROUTES HAS HAD A SERIOUS AFFECT ON
AIR NEW ZEALAND'S PROFITS.
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